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*Admitted only in Maryland
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December 11, 2003

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Commissioner for Patents
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Art Unit 1636

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 09/438,358; Filed: November 12, 1999
For: **Compositions and Methods for Recombinational Cloning of Nucleic Acid Molecules**
Inventors: Gerard *et al.*
Our Ref: 0942.4640001/RWE/BJD/JKM

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1);
2. Fee Transmittal (Form PTO/SB/17);
3. Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038;
4. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111; and
5. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
December 11, 2003
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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RWE/BJD/JKM/acr
Enclosures

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